

NOTES AND NEWS.

NEW SPECIES of *Saussurea* by Franchet, and of *Clavaria* by Boudier and Patouillard, are described in *Journal de Botanique* (Oct. 4).

PROF. JAS. E. HUMPHREY has been elected to the new professorship of Vegetable Physiology at the Massachusetts State Agricultural Experiment Station at Amherst. He enters upon his work November 1.

IT SEEMS that German colonists in Australia introduced their native fruit trees, such as pears, apples, etc., and although they flowered abundantly, no fruit was produced. Lately another colonist brought bees from Europe and the trees are fruiting well.

A NEW GENUS of Berberidaceæ, from Japan, is described in *Jour. Bot.* (Oct.) by Tokutaro Ito. It perhaps comes between *Podophyllum* and *Diphylleia*, and is dedicated to the "Linné du Japon," Ono Ranzan, being called *Ranzania*. We are also assured of the certain occurrence of *Podophyllum peltatum* in Japan.

THE MARINE LABORATORY at Wood's Holl, Mass., proposes to extend its facilities the coming year to botanical students and investigators. This is, doubtless, one of the most favored spots for the study of marine vegetation on our Atlantic coast, and opening a well equipped laboratory to botanists is likely to be appreciated.

DR. JAMES CLARK, of England, but now at the Botanisches Institut, Tübingen, Germany, has under way a monograph of the Gentianaceæ, begun at the request of Professor Huxley. He will be greatly obliged to American botanists who will send him material. He especially desires ripe seeds of our native species, even of the common kinds, such as *G. Andrewsii*. The author aims at much more than a merely systematic study of the group.

A COMPLETE ENUMERATION of all known Uredineæ, arranged according to the orders to which their host plants belong, has been published by Dr. P. Dietel, through a Leipzig firm. It covers forty-eight octavo pages with eight additional pages of index. There is evidence of careful compilation, and the work will be heartily appreciated by all students of the ru-ts. The author would do good service by also issuing a bibliography of this group of plants.

THE FOLLOWING NOTE from an English scientific (?) periodical, just received, may be of interest to American readers: "Among the wonders of the 'Wild West' that have recently been discovered is a vegetable compass. The American Association for the Advancement of Science publishes in its transactions a report penned by General Abford, of the United States Army, and treating of an extraordinary plant growing wild in the states of Oregon and Texas, the leaves of which point due north and south, and are consequently utilized by belated prairie-hunters as convenient substitutes for the magnetic needle. Prof. Gray Meehan, who has examined specimens of this gifted shrub at the request of the Association, defines it as dwarf variety of the osier, named *Sylphium Laciniatum*." We consider this item a gem worth preserving.